SECRET

MHFNO: 97-9265318 SENSIND: RYBAT PAGE: 1

SECRET FRP: , , , , , , ,

STAFF

CONF: CE/BOGYA INFO: CE/BOGB, CEDORECORD, DCCE/BA, LIMITED, MDSX, ODPD, RYBAT, FILE, C/CE, CE/BOG, CE/BOGBT, CE/BOGIS, CED/CIC (7/P)

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97 9265318 ASP PAGE 001
TOT: 301610Z SEP 97 DIRECTOR 522218

S E C R E T
STAFF 301610Z DIRECTOR 522218
TO: PRIORITY BELGRADE.

FROM: LIMITED DISSEM CE/BOGYA INFO CE/BOGIS, CE/BOG, CED/CIC, DCCE/BA

SLUGS: WNINTEL RYBAT

SUBJECT: TRACE RESPONSE - NIKOLA KAVAJA

REF: BELGRADE 20520 97 9106046

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: NONE, FYI ONLY.

2. PER REF, HQS HAS CONFIRMED THAT NIKOLA ((KAVAJA)) IS THE SUBJECT OF 201-0764698. PROVIDED BELOW ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE EXTENSIVE NVTAG SOURCE REPORTING COMPILED ON KAVAJA OVER THE YEARS. BASED ON OUR REVIEW, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT KAVAJA HAS EVER BEEN IN CONTACT WITH TQHIGHROAD. PER PARA 5 REF, BELOW INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED WITH THE RSO AND COM.

3. FOLLOWING IS DRAWN FROM DIRECTOR 824658 DATED 17 FEB 84:

A. NIKOLA ((KAVAJA)) WAS BORN 3 OCTOBER 1933 IN ISTINIC, YUGOSLAVIA. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL HE GRADUATED FROM THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY ACADEMY. BETWEEN 1947 AND 1952, HE SERVED AS A FIGHTER PILOT WITH THE YUGOSLAV AIR FORCE, HOLDING THE RANK OF FIRST LIEUTENANT. IN THE COURSE OF THIS SERVICE HE BECAME DISENCHANTED WITH THE COMMUNIST REGIME AND WAS COURT-MARTIALED. HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A MEMBER OF A SECRET ANTI-COMMUNIST, TERRORIST ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO OVERTHROWING THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF YUGOSLAVIA, AND WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH THE<ASSASSINATION>OF THREE BORDER GUARDS (KAVAJA DENIED BEING GUILTY OF THIS CHARGE). HE WAS FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO EIGHTEEN AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT.

B. ON 15 AUG 57, KAVAJA ESCAPED FROM PRISON WITH ANOTHER YUGOSLAV. THE TWO MEN CROSSED INTO AUSTRIA ON 21 AUGUST 57 AT DOLJNA RADONJA. THEY PROCEEDED TO SALZBURG AND TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO THE POLICE. AFTER SPENDING 21 DAYS IN JAIL THEY WERE GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM. KAVAJA THEREAFTER WORKED AS A PAINTER AND JOINED A LOCAL ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION IN AUSTRIA. HE

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MARRIED MARIE ((MOSEC)) ON 13 JUNE 59. FIVE DAYS LATER, SHE LEFT HIM AND MOVED TO BRITISH COLUMBIA. HE HAS NEVER OBTAINED A DIVORCE FROM HER, THOUGH HE CONSIDERS THAT THEY ARE SEPARATED. HE REMAINED IN AUSTRIA UNTIL 15 AUGUST 61 WHEN HE DEPARTED FOR THE U.S.

C. KAVAJA WORKED IN THE U.S. AS A PART TIME PAINTER FOR VARIOUS EMPLOYERS IN THE PATERSON, NEW JERSEY AREA FOR NEARLY EIGHT MONTHS. DURING NOVEMBER 1962, KAVAJA LEFT PATERSON FOR CHICAGO, WHERE HE TOOK A JOB WITH THE SERBIAN NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL (SND). HIS DUTIES INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR THE EMIGRE PUBLICATION "SLOBODA," AND ACTING AS CUSTODIAN AND WATCHMAN FOR THE BUILDING. HE SAID A WATCHMAN WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE YUGOSLAV CONSULATE IN CHICAGO TO BE AN ENEMY. AS PART OF HIS SALARY, KAVAJA WAS PROVIDED FURNISHED QUARTERS IN THE BUILDING. KAVAJA REMAINED WITH THE SND UNTIL DECEMBER 1963. FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS HE SUPPORTED HIMSELF BY TAKING ODD JOBS PAINTING.

D. IN MARCH 1964 KAVAJA DROVE WITH A FRIEND TO CALIFORNIA. AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA, THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF A .45 CALIBER AUTOMATIC PISTOL WHICH KAVAJA HAD LEFT ON THE BACK SEAT OF THE AUTOMOBILE. THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DETAINED KAVAJA FOR TWENTY DAYS. A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN WHO INTERPRETED AT THE HEARING FOR KAVAJA, INDICATED THAT KAVAJA WAS "CRAZY AND A LOUDMOUTH," WHO WAS INTENT ON KILLING CASTRO. AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL HE RETURNED TO CHICAGO, AND THEN TO PATERSON TO WORK ON OBTAINING HIS CITIZENSHIP.

E. IN OCTOBER 64 HE RETURNED TO CHICAGO. SOMETIME BEFORE THE SUMMER OF 1966, HIS LIVE-IN (MARRIED) GIRLFRIEND GAVE BIRTH TO A DAUGHTER IN PATERSON. IN JUNE 1977, YUGOSLAV CONSULATE GENERAL, CONSULAR OFFICER TOMISLAV DJORDJEVIC, CONSIDERED TO BE SDB OFFICER BASED IN NEW YORK, LEARNED FROM THE CHICAGO CONSULATE THAT KAVAJA AND HIS GROUP OF RADICALS MAY BECOME ACTIVE, AND AS A RESULT WAS KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON THEM. IN NOVEMBER 1977, NEW YORK CONSULATE OFFICIAL PETAR G. ((BOZINOVIC)), ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE SDB, WAS COLLECTING INFORMATION ON KAVAJA, AND MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT KAVAJA WAS INSTRUCTING EMIGRES ON HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. ON 4 AUGUST 79, AT A MEETING OF YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AT THE NEW YORK CONSULATE GENERAL, KAVAJA WAS A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. DJORDJEVIC, HIS SUCCESSOR (AND SDB OFFICER) NJEGOSLAV ((PANTELIC)), CONSULAR OFFICER NINO ((KOPAC)), OSMAN ((GASI)), AND CONSUL GENERAL VESELIN ((VESKOVIC)) DISCUSSED ACTIVE ANTI-REGIME EMIGRES IN THE AREA. THEY INDICATED THAT KAVAJA HAD RECENTLY HIJACKED AN AIRPLANE OUTSIDE CHICAGO TO NEW YORK CITY, AND THEN TO SHANNON, IRELAND, WHERE HE SURRENDERED TO THE IRISH AUTHORITIES. DURING THIS MEETING, THEY AGREED THAT KAVAJA, WHO WAS AT THE TIME IN A U.S. PRISON, DESERVED TO BE PUNISHED. DJORDJEVIC DISPLAYED A SERBO-CROATIAN REPORT ON KAVAJA ENTITLED "WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS - SOPO - END OF ONE CONSPIRACY."

F. ONE SOURCE WHO TRAVELED TO YUGOSLAVIA IN APRIL 1981 REPORTED HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE SDB. HE WAS ASKED AMONG OTHER THINGS TO IDENTIFY YUGOSLAV EMIGRES WHO VISITED KAVAJA IN JAIL.

IN 1964, KAVAJA TOLD ONE SOURCE HE IS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM WHEREVER IT IS FOUND. HE PROFESSED GREAT ADMIRATION FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY BUT FELT THAT MORE THAN MERE WORDS WERE NEEDED IF AMERICA WAS TO WIN OUT OVER COMMUNISM. KAVAJA INDICATED THAT HE WAS A MAN OF ACTION. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE ERADICATION OF COMMUNISM AND THAT AN OPPORTUNE TIME, HE WILL ACQUIRE AND CARRY A PISTOL, AS A PATRIOT, NOT AS A CRIMINAL, FOR USE AGAINST THE HEAD OF ANY COMMUNIST STATE INCLUDING TITO, KHRUSHCHEV AND CASTRO, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES TO HIMSELF OR HIS RELATIVES. KAVAJA INDICATED THAT IN OCTOBER 1963 HE HAD STALKED TITO AT NEW YORK CITY, WILLIAMSBURG, AND WASHINGTON FOR *THE PURPOSE OF<ASSASSINATING>HIM. HE WAS DRESSED IN THE BLACK CLERICAL GARB OF A PRIEST, AND HE WAS ARMED WITH A .45 CALIBER PISTOL AND 48 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. HE SAID HE NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN HIS EFFORT IN WILLIAMSBURG, BUT WAS THWARTED WHEN TITO LEFT THE AREA BY HELICOPTER RATHER THAN BY CAR. KAVAJA INDICATED THAT THE *COMMUNIST PARTY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LATE<PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S> *<ASSASSINATION.> IT WAS ALSO HIS OPINION THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FREQUENT BLACK RIOTS IN THE EAST. KAVAJA MENTIONED THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES FELT THAT THE TIME HAD COME WHEN FORCEFUL AND AFFIRMATIVE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN, IF THE WORLD WAS TO AVOID A COMPLETE TAKE-OVER BY COMMUNISM.

G. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED THAT KAVAJA APPEARED TO BE SOMEWHAT "DIFFERENT" FROM THE AVERAGE MEMBER OF THE SND, AND HE APPEARED TO HAVE MORE OF AN AGGRESSIVE NATURE. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT KAVAJA WOULD PROBABLY DO THINGS OTHER PEOPLE WOULD NOT DO. ON ONE OCCASION KAVAJA CONFIDED TO THE SOURCE THAT HE HAD BEEN PAID NEARLY USD 3,000 BY A SERBIAN ORTHODOX BISHOP TO KILL TITO. THE DEAL INVOLVED HIS KIDNAPPING A FORMER LEADER OF THE USTASHI MOVEMENT RESIDENT IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA TO AVENGE THE SERBS KILLED DURING WORLD WAR II BY THE USTASHI. HOWEVER, HE DID *NOT SUCCEED IN THIS<ASSASSINATION>PLAN BECAUSE, WHILE HE WAS STAKING OUT THE MAN'S RESIDENCE, HE WAS APPREHENDED BY THE POLICE AND ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN.

H. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED THAT KAVAJA FREQUENTLY PROMISED TO COMMIT SOME ACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST A COMMUNIST PERSON AND ON THIS BASIS COLLECTED MONEY FROM THE SERBS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE HAD NOT YET DELIVERED, SERBS IN THE CHICAGO AREA WERE DISENCHANTED WITH HIM.

I. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE, KAVAJA WAS DESCRIBED AS AN OPPORTUNIST, A BULLY, AND AN UNTRUSTWORTHY TYPE OF PERSON WHO WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN HIMSELF. WITH REGARD TO KAVAJA'S CLAIMS OF BEING AN ANTI-COMMUNIST, THE SOURCE ADDED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON HIS POLITICAL SYMPATHIES, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY PREJUDICED AGAINST NON-SERB SLAVS. HE WAS REPORTEDLY NOT LIKED BY FELLOW SERBS, BUT FEARED BY THEM BECAUSE HE HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A FIGHTER AND ONE WHO USUALLY PICKS ON MEN WHO ARE EITHER SMALLER OR OLDER THAN HE. HOWEVER, THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT SOME SERBS VIEWED KAVAJA AS A HERO.

4. ACCORDING TO CIA 823841, DATED 02 SEP 84, TQHIGHROAD

RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM AUSTRIAN LIAISON FOR INFORMATION ON NIKOLA KAVAJA. THE AUSTRIANS CARRIED SUBJECT AS A TERRORIST WHO MAY TRY TO DISRUPT THE SARAJEVO OLYMPIC GAMES USING AUSTRIA AS A STAGING AREA. THEY PLANNED TO ENTER INFORMATION INTO THEIR COMPUTERS AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS TO ENABLE THEM TO PREVENT KAVAJA FROM ENTERING YUGOSLAVIA VIA AUSTRIA.

5. ON 31 JUL 93, NVTAG PROVIDED AN ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR YUGOSLAVIAN TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WAS SENT TO SEVERAL TQHIGHROAD STATIONS. THE ASSESSMENT WAS NOT PART OF THE U.S. TERRORIST THREAT WARNING SYSTEM, BUT JUST INTENDED TO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO ALL RECIPIENTS. IN THIS ASSESSMENT, NVTAG EVALUATED THE YUGOSLAVIAN DIPLOMATIC AND NON-OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ASSESSMENT MENTIONED KAVAJA AS ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE BOMBING OF THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. KAVAJA WAS ALSO MENTIONED TO BE A MEMBER OF SOPO.

6. FILE: 201-0764698. CL BY: 2184825, CL REASON: 1.5 (C), DECL ON: X1, DRV FROM: HUM 4-82.
CABLETYPE: GECO STAFF 4.0.1.>
RELNO: DORELS0100792925
ORIG: CE/BOGYA(XDEBRUC, 51706); AUTH: DC/CE/BOGYA(DEL PRINCIPE);
INFO: CE/TRG(FRREEMAN); REL: C/CE/BOGYA(PIPKIN).

END OF MESSAGE SECRET